

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 047600
ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION OF LINE SIXTEEN)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PPDC, AR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION ON THE
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF GENERAL SAN MARTIN'S BIRTH

PLEASE HAVE USIS TRANSMIT THE ATTACHED MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER TO THE PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA ON THE AN-
NIVERSARY OF GENERAL JOSE DE SAN MARTIN'S BIRTH. THE
WIDEST MEDIA DISTRIBUTION POSSIBLE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
A COPY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA.
A COPY WILL BE HANDED TO AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 24:

QUOTE: JOSE DE SAN MARTIN STATEMENT
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THE WORLD HAS CHANGED GREATLY IN THE 200 YEARS SINCE THE
BIRTH OF GENERAL JOSE DE SAN MARTIN, LIBERATOR OF ARGENTINA,
CHILE, AND SOUTHERN PERU.

BUT THE PRINCIPLES HE STRUGGLED FOR--DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM
FROM OPPRESSION--WILL ENDURE IN OUR HEMISPHERE AS LONG

AS MEN AND WOMEN ARE PREPARED TO DIE IN THEIR DEFENSE.

SAN MARTIN'S PLANS TO FREE ARGENTINA, CHILE, AND PERU FROM THEIR OPPRESSORS WERE TERMED FOLLY BY MANY OF HIS COMPATRIOTS -- AND YET HE TURNED HIS DREAMS TO VICTORY. ONE MAN'S INFLUENCE HAS SELDOM HAD A MORE DECISIVE EFFECT ON THE DESTINY OF A REGION AND ITS PEOPLE.

HE MADE AN ARMY FROM AN UNTRAINED FORCE, AND INFUSED THAT ARMY WITH HIS OWN SPIRIT AND BELIEF THAT LIBERTY WAS THEIRS BY RIGHT. HIS HUMANITY WAS SUCH THAT, EVEN IN BATTLE, HE SOUGHT TO MINIMIZE LOSS OF LIFE ON BOTH SIDES.

WHEN HE HAD FOUNDED REPUBLICS WHERE MEN AND WOMEN COULD LIVE IN FREEDOM, HE ABDICATED HIS POWER--TO INSURE THAT FOREIGN TYRANNY WOULD NOT BE FOLLOWED BY THE DOMESTIC TYRANNY HE MIGHT SO EASILY HAVE ESTABLISHED.

IN SO DOING, HE BECAME AS IMMORTAL AS THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES HE EMBRACED.

I HOPE THESE PRINCIPLES WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN BY THE PEOPLES HE LED TO FREEDOM. END QUOTE. VANCE

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Disposition Remarks:
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